

my intention, if nothing prevents, to further pursue the investigations I have already inaugurated, and thoroughly compare the remaining systems of these groups, more especially the muscular, arterial, and digestive systems. To this end it is very important that I should have my material as complete as American types can make it, and the principal object of this letter is to call the attention of the members of the A. O. U. to this matter, and to solicit their assistance in the work. As my desiderata are not extensive, and for the most part not difficult to obtain, I feel that I can look with certainty to the realization of my hopes in that direction.

I have already written to some of my friends in Arizona and California for alcoholic specimens of the various forms of Trochili, and all such donations of course will be fully acknowledged in my future contributions to the subject.

Alcoholic specimens of any of the Trogons are particularly desirable, and the following forms essentially so: *Autrostomus carolinensis*, two specimens; *Chatura pelagica*, six specimens; *Progne subis*, six specimens. And, as I have already said, any of the Hummingbirds.

The specimens should be properly tagged, giving donor, locality, date, etc., and placed in good alcohol in an ordinary screw-top glass fruit-jar, and packed round with sawdust in a box as small as is compatible with safe transportation, and sent C. O. D. to me by express. I would beg such persons as are willing to assist in this work, to communicate with me *before* sending material, in order to save expense (as express rates are very high), and the undue duplication of material.

Very respectfully yours,

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Fort Wingate, New Mexico, May 1, 1886.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE second edition of Dr. Coues's 'Key' being already out of print, Messrs. Estes & Lauriat announce the third edition, which will contain the new nomenclature of the A. O. U. Committee, with all necessary corrections and additions to date. This edition will appear in two forms, one like the second edition, the other called the 'Sportsman's Edition' for use in the field, on thin paper, trimmed to a very narrow margin, and bound in flexible Russia leather covers.

THE Milwaukee Society of German Journalists and Booksellers have issued a prospectus of Mr. H. Nehrling's work on North American birds, entitled 'Die nordamerikanische Vogelwelt,' which is to be published by subscription in ten to twelve quarto parts, with colored plates, at \$1 per part. A work in the German language on North American birds is still a desideratum, and one which is doubtless much felt by the German Americans: and no one is doubtless better fitted than Mr. Nehrling to supply

this want, as his various ornithological communications to various German periodicals and newspapers, both in this country and in the 'Fatherland,' have already well shown. We wish this timely enterprise the success it so well deserves.

BESIDES Mr. Capen's 'Oölogy of New England,' noticed briefly on an earlier page of the present number of 'The Auk,' we have also to note the recent appearance of the second edition of Mr. Oliver Davie's 'Nests and Eggs of North American Birds,' which is "increased in size and entirely rewritten." It will doubtless prove a welcome hand-book of the subject.

PARTS 2 and 3 of 'Ornis,' the organ of the Permanent International Ornithological Committee, edited by Drs. R. Blasius and G. von Hayek, contains biological notes on some of the birds of Southeast Borneo, by F. J. Grabowsky; the report on bird migration for Heligoland for 1884, by H. Gätke, and the report for 1883 on the migration in Austria and Hungary, by Dr. K. von Dalla-Torre and Victor Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen, the latter alone comprising nearly 275 pages.

AT the annual meeting of the Ridgway Ornithological Club, held May 13, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, G. Frean Morcom; Vice-President, Ruthven Deane; Secretary and Treasurer, H. K. Coale; Curator and Librarian, Geo. L. Tappan. The Club was reported in a flourishing condition.

WE are authorized to state, for the information of persons desiring to make exchanges of birds' skins or eggs with the National Museum, that no attention can be paid to applications or propositions for exchanges in which only *catalogue numbers* are used *instead of names*. If this could be borne in mind by those desiring to make exchanges, not only with the National Museum, but with other museums, much vexation and valuable time would be saved curators in hunting out and translating into names the numbers of the various check-lists in use to determine the species referred to by correspondents when using merely check-list numbers.

As the last pages of 'The Auk' go to press we have space to briefly note an important change, just made by Congress, in the status of the work on Economic Ornithology, carried on by Dr. C. Hart Merriam under the Department of Agriculture. Through the influence of Senator Miller of New York, not only has the sum of \$10,000 been appropriated for carrying on the work for the present year, but this important branch of inquiry has been separated from the Division of Entomology, and made a separate division, with Dr. Merriam at its head. The scope of the work has also been extended so as to include investigations concerning the food-habits of mammals. The appropriation now made is for the "promotion of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy; an investigation of the food-habits, distribution, and migration of birds and mammals in relation to agriculture, horticulture, and forestry; for publishing reports thereon; and for drawings and traveling and other expenses in the practical work of the division."